

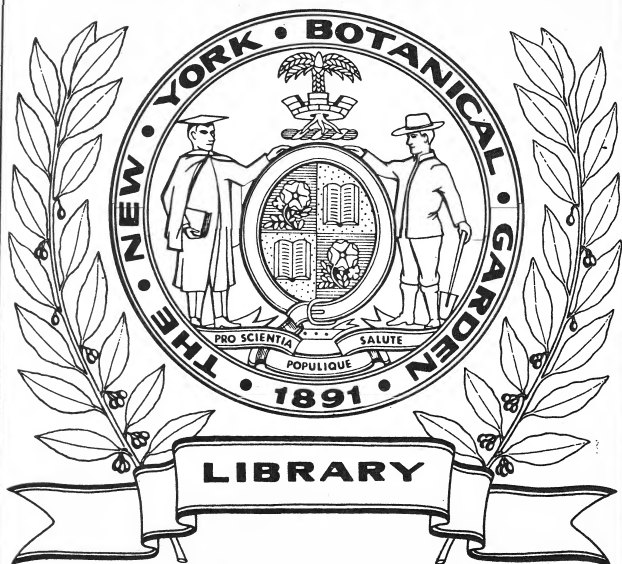
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*GARDENING  
DON'TS by M.C.*

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FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNSTON  
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NEW YORK

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# GARDENING DON'TS

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BETWEEN SHADE AND SUNSHINE.

# GARDENING DON'TS

By M. C.

*Marion Chappell -*

*Coloured Frontispiece by Alswen Montgomerie  
And Seventeen Photographs from a  
Hampshire Garden*

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS  
NEW YORK

LONDON: BICKERS & SON, LTD

1913

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Dedicated to  
'A DESIGNING WOMAN'

‘ So many books, and such a  
very, very little bit of Nature  
in them ! ’

*Richard Jefferies.*

**D**ON'T write a book on  
Gardening. There are  
already . . . .

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This space is left for the figures !

JAN 27 1926



BRICK WALK.

**D**ON'T, if you are not already the owner of a garden, neglect to become one as soon as possible ! Many are the joys—few the sorrows—that it brings.



**D**ON'T kill the birds that  
eat your fruit buds; you  
can buy fruit—but not the  
songs of birds in Spring.

N.B.—They eat insects too.



**D**ON'T talk much about  
your garden when you  
take friends round ; they come  
to tell you about theirs.



**D**ON'T, when invited to inspect a friend's horticultural efforts, enlarge the whole time on the beauties of someone else's garden that they have never seen.



LEADING TO LILY GARDEN.

**D**ON'T forget that in the world of flowers, the un-rehearsed effect is often the most attractive, and the un-invited guest sometimes as welcome as her more formal sisters.



**D**ON'T find a place in your garden for any plant because it has 'a neat habit of growth,' or because it bears a 'showy' flower.

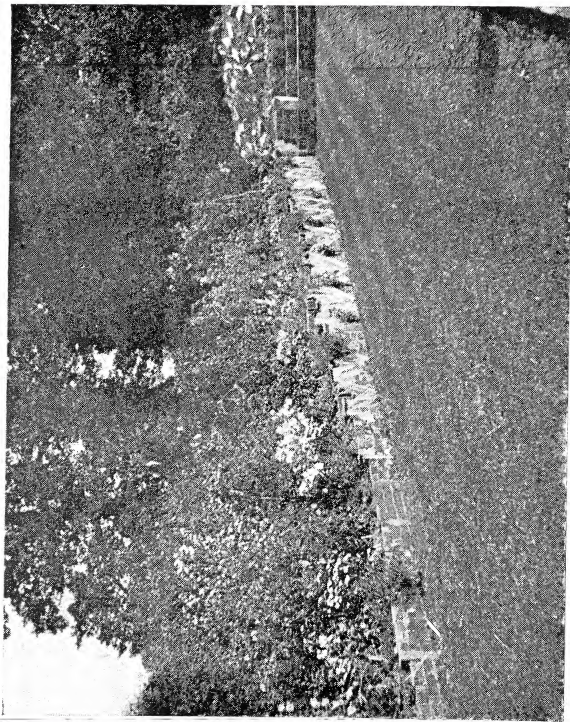


CROQUET LAWN IN SUMMER.

**D**ON'T be *too* tidy ;  
destroy the weeds but  
let the flowers riot a bit.  
Who can be more untidy  
than Dame Nature ?



DON'T say to those who come to see your garden: 'Ah, you should have been here *last* week ; I have never seen such a blaze of colour. Now, of course, everything is over ;' *or* (knowing they are just going abroad), ' If you could only come in a fortnight's time, I should really have something lovely to show you.'

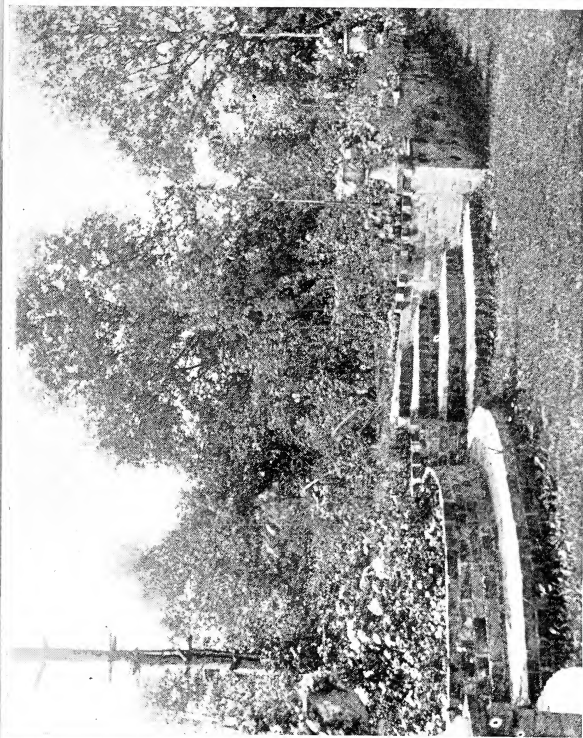


BOWLING GREEN WITH WALL GARDEN.

**D**ON'T, because you admire someone else's garden, try to make yours exactly like it : no two women can be charming in the same way, and no two gardens !



**D**ON'T strain after effects;  
I have seen gardens which  
look almost as self-conscious  
as an affected woman !



STEPS TO ROSE GARDEN.

**D**ON'T let fashion rule  
you: if you love old-  
time flowers, find a place for  
them, and if you think a rose  
should be sweet-smelling,

### DON'T

be beguiled into buying the  
very latest thing, with blooms  
as big as a saucer, but scent-  
less.



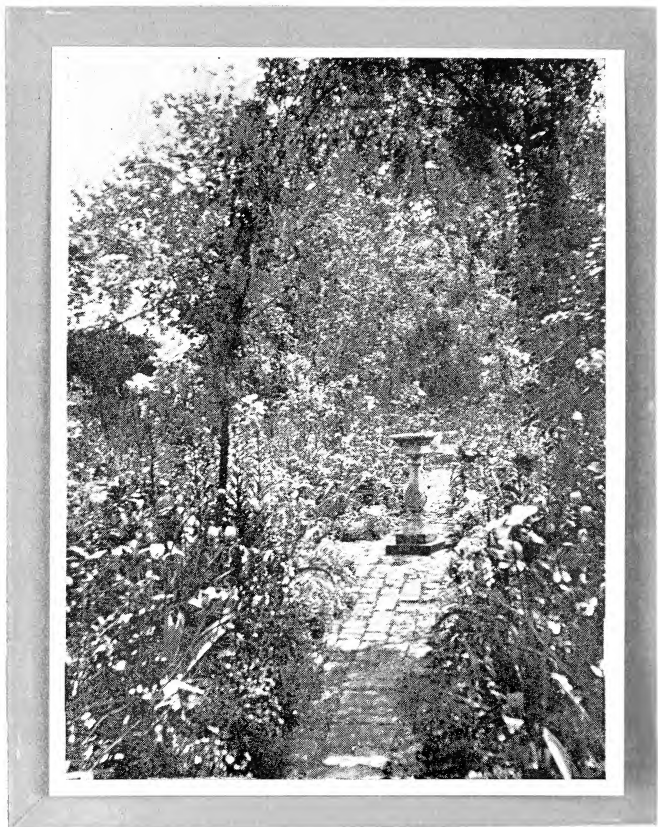
**D**ON'T, if you wish to please a friend who has designed a very artistic garden, remark : 'How charmingly *rustic* you have made it all.'



**D**ON'T, when you are being shown a garden more celebrated for its picturesqueness than for the spotless tidiness of its borders, fix your eye on a flourishing nettle, and ask your friend how many gardeners she keeps !



**D**ON'T, if your neighbour  
prides himself on the  
beauty of the garden he has  
made, tell him that the fine  
trees he found there when  
he came constitute its chief  
beauty !



SUNDIAL—WITH LILAC AND TULIPS.

**D**ON'T, when you see a border of flowers over which many hours of patient toil have been expended, fix your attention exclusively on a sun-dial in the middle of a brick path and ask your hostess if she is sure that it is set correctly !



**D**ON'T brag about your gardening exploits—it is so dull for listeners, who don't want to hear about (even if they believe in them) the 'masses and masses' of flowers in your garden, or the enormous height to which your sweet-peas grow!



APPLE ORCHARD.

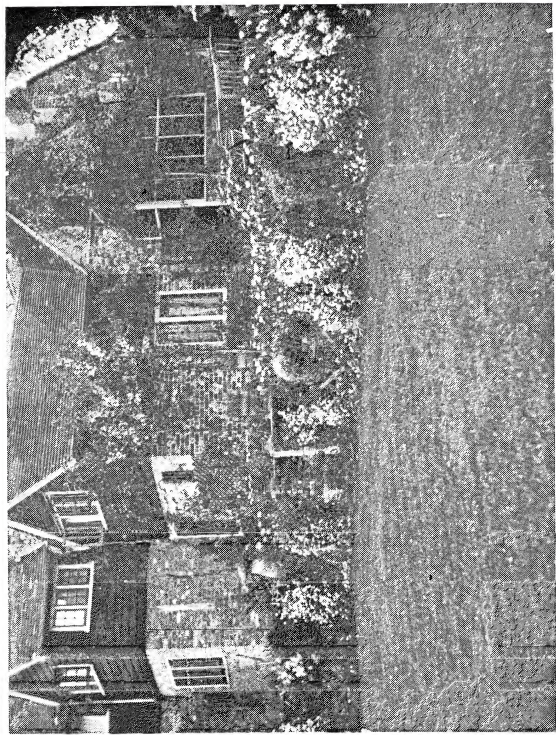
**D**ON'T 'buck' about  
the size of your daffo-  
dils; Nature and a bit of earth  
did it all!



**D**ON'T try to make a daffodil *hedge*. They look so miserable standing stiffly like soldiers 'at attention,' instead of scattered about in happy groups.



**D**ON'T (no matter how much you may wish them to grow there) put any plants in a spot where they will not be happy.

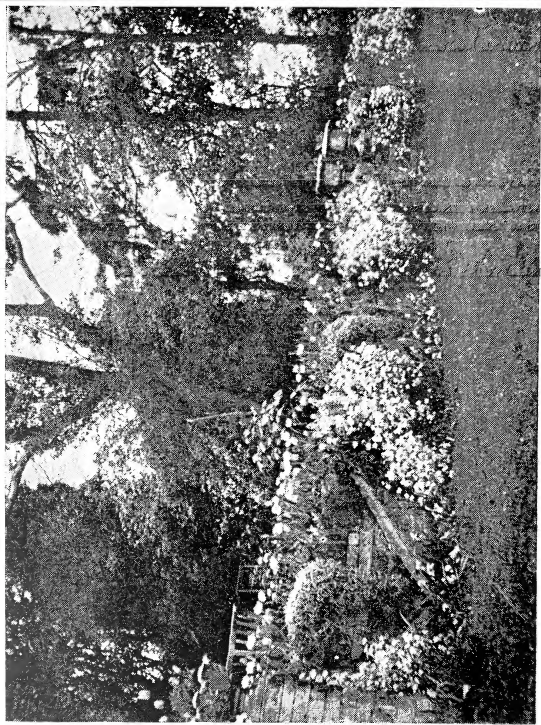


ROCK PLANTS, "COTTAGE MAIDS," AND CHERRY TREES.

**D**ON'T forget the value of a background for your flowers. How lovely is a grass bowling green, with a little brick wall surrounding it on three sides, at the foot of which are daffodils and scillas and their successors ; while from the top of the wall rock plants tumble : arabis and aubretias, and, later, rock roses, lythospermums, veronica, and endless others.



**D**ON'T build your wall  
of new, bright red bricks  
and make it look like a rail-  
way embankment !



A WALL IN SPRINGTIME.

**D**ON'T think you have  
tasted the real joy of  
gardening till you stand below  
on the grass, working at your  
wall rock garden—without  
breaking your back!



**D**ON'T be too definite.  
Where everything is cut  
and dried, charm vanishes.



STEPS TO BRICK PATH.

**D**ON'T grumble if the sun shines persistently for two or three months, but bless, praise, and enjoy the novel sensation !



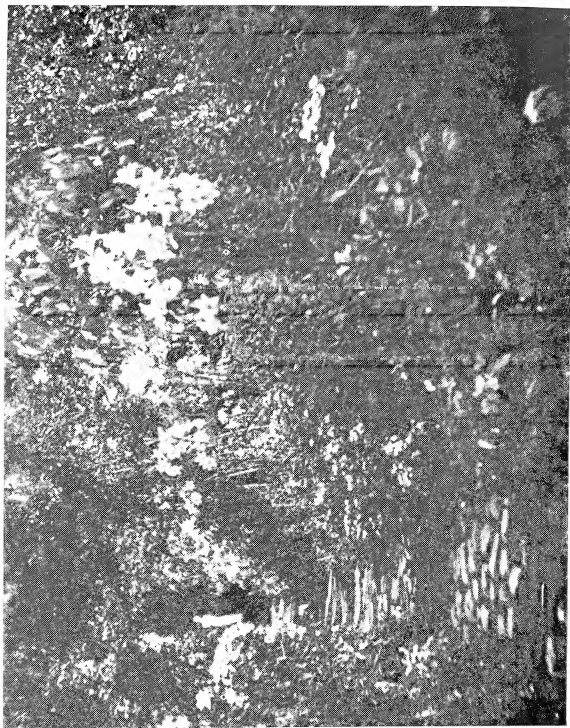
**D**ON'T be too depressed when it rains incessantly; look over your seed catalogues, and remember how good moisture is for your neighbour's roots!



**D**ON'T forget that your garden is your own ; there is nothing more depressing than a 'gardener's garden.'



**D**ON'T give him a free hand with that weed-killer, or you may miss the many joys of the unexpected : the self-sown double daisy on the steps, the tiny fern growing in a chink of the wall, and the self-invited pink anemone peeping out of your path between the bricks.



MADONNA LILIES.

**D**ON'T neglect the attractions of a vista, either ending in a culminating point, or vague and mysterious, as in a copse.



**D**ON'T 'pergle' reck-  
lessly; or you may find  
yourself with a long, mean-  
dering something—meaning  
nothing—and leading—no-  
where!



**D**ON'T force a rock garden into your scheme, or include it, unless, in the place you have chosen Nature could conceivably, even in her most eccentric mood, have here flung down a heap of heterogeneous stones !



HERBACEOUS BORDER.

DON'T altogether banish  
*any* colours from your  
garden: Nature is very cath-  
olic, and knows better than  
you do.

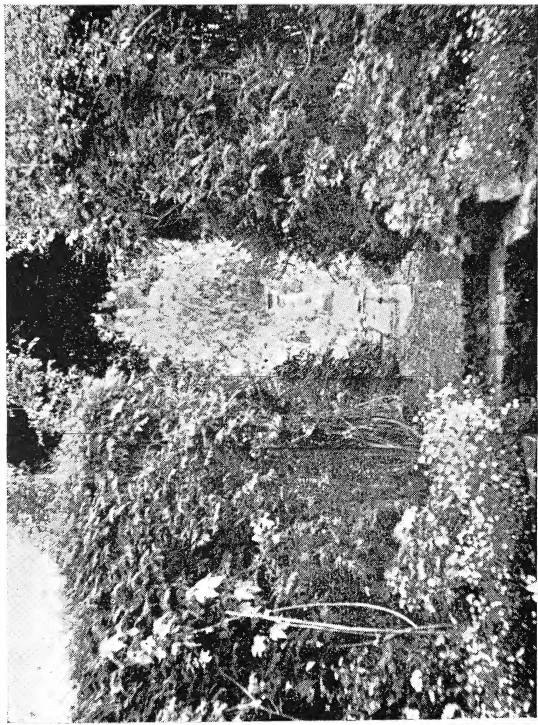


**D**ON'T be frightened of mixing colours: it is the hard artificial shades that clash, but very seldom the soft, melting ones of Nature.



DON'T be narrow-minded.  
Give your neighbour  
a bit of that rare plant he  
covets, even if there lurks  
a tiny hope

that it won't flourish *quite* as  
well as it has done with you!



LABURNUM ARCHES IN FULL BLOOM.

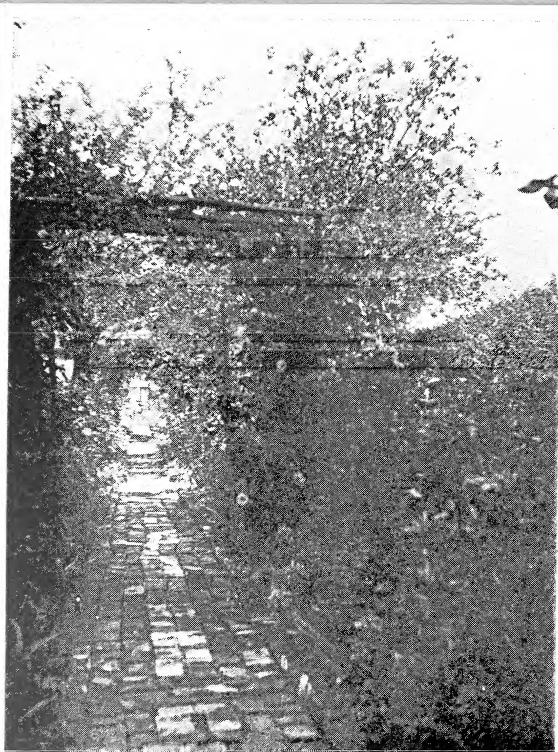
**D**ON'T forget the humble plants in your garden ; the wall-flowers, forget-me-nots, scillas and others, which can be lifted and forced gently, just as well as lilacs and azaleas, to brighten your rooms in early Spring.



**D**ON'T fret over faults and failures. No one is clever enough to escape making them, and very few wise enough to accept and learn from them.



**D**ON'T worry. 'He who is constantly worrying takes as little comfort as if he were on a bed of nettles.'



ROSES.

**D**ON'T prune your climbing roses too drastically, so that—like children perpetually controlled and punished—they lose all charm and individuality.



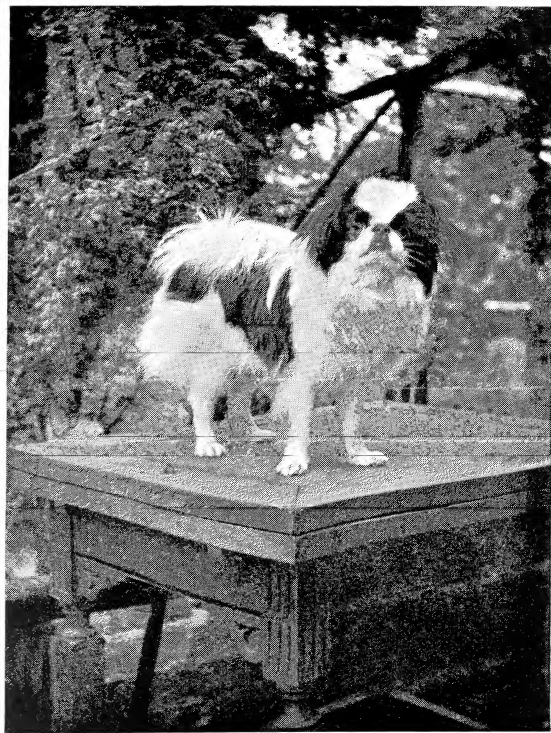
**D**ON'T be so busy tidying up and cutting off the dead flowers, that you forget to admire the living ones.



**D**ON'T, when you call at  
a new house on a wind-  
swept hill, where flowers re-  
fuse to grow, forget to admire  
the view.



**D**ON'T, on the other hand,  
tell your friend, whose  
garden nestles in a belt of  
trees, that for your part you  
cannot breathe except on the  
top of a hill !



“MARQUIS ITO.”

**D**ON'T keep too many  
dogs ; they are bad  
gardeners.



**D**ON'T have evergreens  
in your garden because  
they *are* evergreens ; a melan-  
choly shrub is not less ugly  
because it does not shed its  
leaves in winter !



BOWLING GREEN AND STEPS TO GARDEN.

**D**ON'T, in wiring them  
out, leave *one rabbit* in  
your garden.\*

\*We did !



**D**ON'T buy a ready-made rustic Summer House, (stained and varnished and lined—crowning abomination—with pitch-pine), and set it down in an old-world garden among clipped yew hedges—it has been done!



**D**ON'T forget those friends  
in London who would  
love a box of flowers.



**D**ON'T bound your ambition by the desire to grow bigger and better plants and flowers than your neighbours, but try to make *your* little corner of the world as lovely as you can.



POND—FORGET-ME-NOTS AND ROSES.

*Finally*

**D**ON'T banish charm and mystery from your garden, while you welcome those dull companions — custom and convention.



‘How willingly would I  
strew the path of all with  
flowers ; how beautiful a  
delight to make the world  
joyous !

‘The song should never be  
silent ; the dance never still ;  
the laugh should sound like  
water which runs for ever.’

*Richard Jefferies.*







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